

Serial No. 10/627,806
Amdt. dated September 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 14, 2005

Docket No. P-0549

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figure 1 is amended to delete reference numeral 152, and to replace reference numeral 131 with reference numeral 130, consistent with the specification. Figure 3 is amended to reflect the proper placement of the reference line for the speaker 51. Figure 5 is amended to replace reference numerals 83 and 98 with reference numerals 68 and 93, respectively, consistent with the specification. No new matter is added.

Attachments: Annotated Sheets showing changes (3)
 Replacement Sheets (3)

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings and claims 1, 3, 11-12, and 21 are amended, and claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 11-15, and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,447,314 to Kato et al. (hereinafter “Kato”). Dependent claim 2 is cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to the remaining claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, wherein the first connector is configured to rotate relative to the second connector as the first body is rotated relative to the second body, while the first and second FPCBs connected respectively thereto are configured to remain in substantially fixed positions within the first and second bodies. Further, independent claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, a coupler configured to rotatably couple the first FPCB and the second FPCB such that the first and second FPCBs remain in substantially fixed positions within the first and second bodies as the first and second bodies are rotated relative to one another. Kato neither discloses nor suggests such features.

Kato discloses a hinge connector for a notebook PC which uses a flexible electroconductive member to connect the main body and the display portion of the PC. More particularly, in Figures 12A-12C, Kato discloses a hinge connector 119 which connects an LCD connector assembly 121 to a PC connector assembly 127. The PC connector assembly 127 is connected to a shell 131 of the hinge connector 119 by a flexible PC wiring board (FPC) 129. The shell 131 is affixed to the LCD chassis at one end, and is formed as a pipe 133 at the other end. Likewise, the LCD connector assembly 121 includes a pipe 135 and a shell 137 affixed to the LCD chassis and positioned around the pipe 135, and FPCs 143 and 145 are fixed to a fixing section 139 of the LCD connector 121. The pipe 133 extending from shell 131 is fitted into the pipe 135 extending from shell 137, and the pipe 133 rotates within the pipe 135.

Each of the shells 131 and 137 are fixed to the LCD chassis, and thus, given the connecting structure disclosed by Kato, at least the FPC 129 which connects the PC connector assembly 127 to the hinge connector 119 must bend and move within the chassis as the PC is opened and closed, resulting in additional wear to at least the FPC 129. This is clearly shown in the side sectional view of the connectors 121 and 122 shown in Figure 12C of Kato. Thus, Kato neither discloses nor suggests first and second FPCBs configured to remain in substantially fixed positions within the first and second bodies, as recited in independent claim 1, nor a coupler configured to couple first and second FPCBs in such a manner, as recited in independent claim 11.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by Kato, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kato should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 3 and 12-15 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 11, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, wherein the coupler includes an electrical connector unit configured to couple the first and second electronic circuitries such that a substantially constant position of the first and second electronic circuitries is maintained in the first and second bodies, respectively. As set forth above, Kato neither discloses nor suggests such features. More specifically, as set forth above, the FPC 129 is in a first, bent position when the PC is closed and, as the LCD is rotated to an open position, the FPC 129 moves to an extended position within the chassis, resulting in additional wear on the FPC 129 as the PC is opened and closed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 21 is not anticipated by Kato, and thus the rejection of independent claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kato should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 22-24 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 21, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

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II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 4-10, 16-20, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kato in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,860,312 to Gordon, Jr. (hereinafter “Gordon”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 4-10, 16-20, and 25-27 are allowable over Kato at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 11, and 21, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Further, Gordon is merely cited as allegedly teaching a rotary coupling of electrodes, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kato. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-10, 16-20, and 25-27 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of claims 4-10, 16-20, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kato and Gordon should be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and
please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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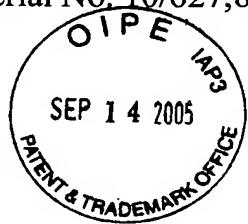


FIG.1

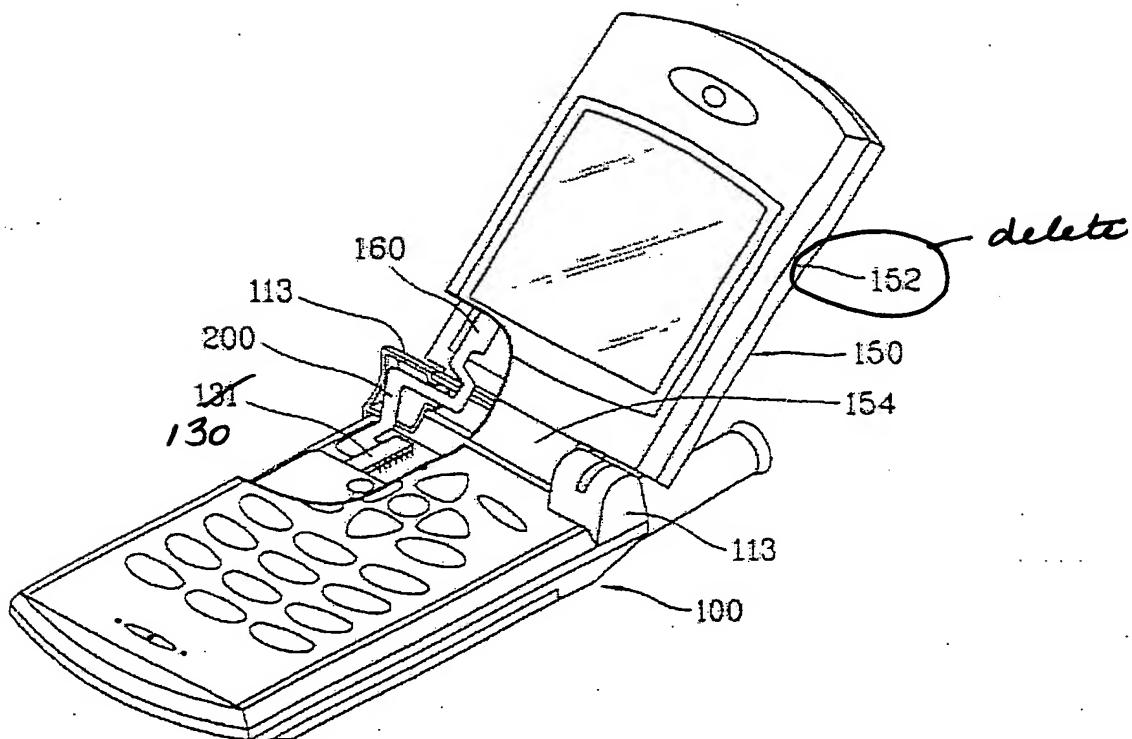


FIG.3

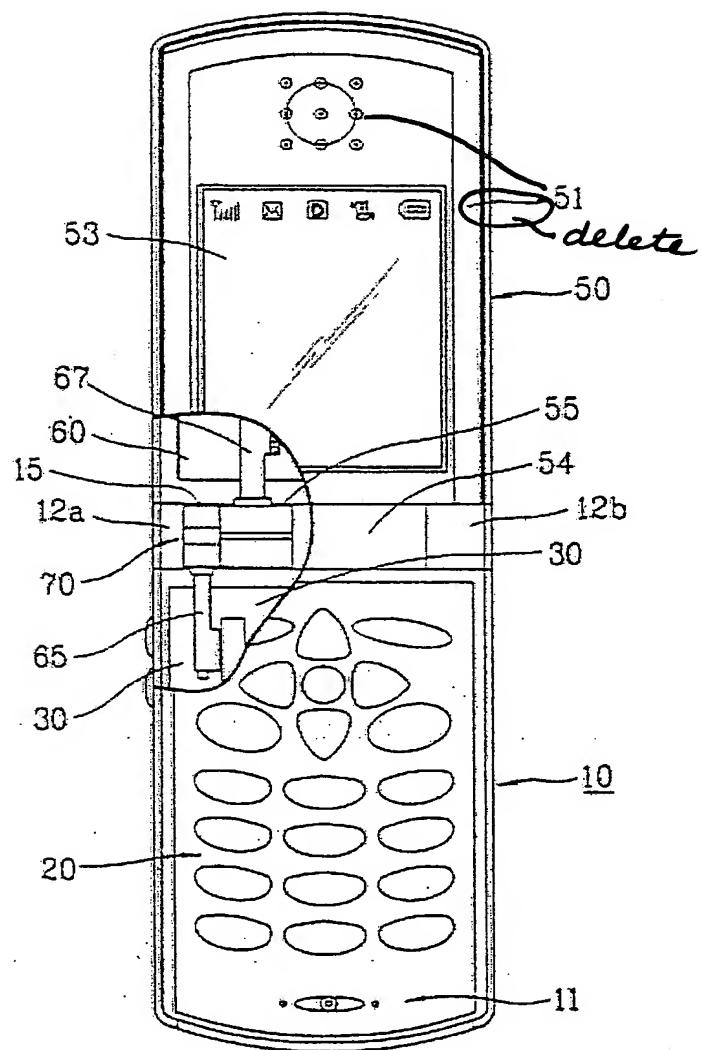


FIG.4

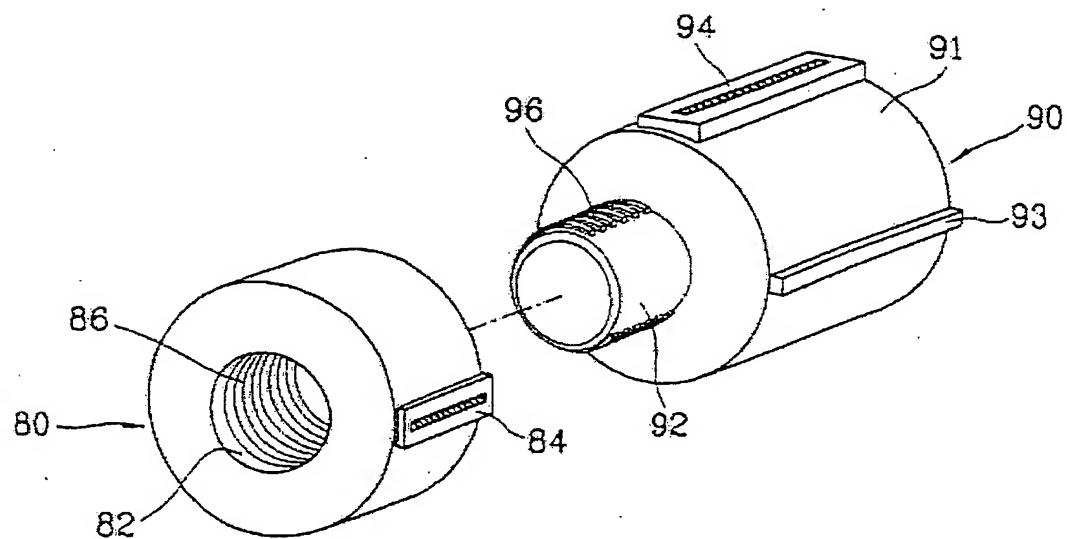


FIG.5

